

(b) the term “earmark” means funds provided by the Congress for projects, programs, or grants where the purported congressional direction (whether in statutory text, report language, or other communication) circumvents otherwise applicable merit-based or competitive allocation processes, or specifies the location or recipient, or otherwise curtails the ability of the executive branch to manage its statutory and constitutional responsibilities pertaining to the funds allocation process.

**Sec. 4. General Provisions.** (a) Nothing in this order shall be construed to impair or otherwise affect:

- (i) authority granted by law to an agency or the head thereof; or
- (ii) functions of the Director of the Office of Management and Budget relating to budget, administrative, or legislative proposals.

(b) This order shall be implemented in a manner consistent with applicable law and subject to the availability of appropriations.

(c) This order is not intended to, and does not, create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity, by any party against the United States, its agencies, instrumentalities, or entities, its officers, employees, or agents, or any other person.

**George W. Bush**

The White House,  
January 29, 2008.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 9:02 a.m., January 31, 2008]

NOTE: This Executive order was published in the *Federal Register* on February 1.

### **Remarks Prior to a Meeting With the Joint Chiefs of Staff and Combatant Commanders**

*January 29, 2008*

Mr. Secretary, thank you very much. Mr. Chairman, we're glad you're here. The Vice President and I welcome you all. One of the highlights of my year is to meet with combatant commanders and the Joint Chiefs. We'll have a visit here in the Cabinet Room, talking

about the war on terror and the ideological struggle that we're engaged in. We'll talk about our common desire to protect America and how best to do so. And then we're going to have dinner with your spouses, and Laura and I are really looking forward to having you upstairs.

I love our military, and the reason I do is because the character of those who wear our uniform, whether they be the general or the private, is remarkable. We're a nation that has produced people who are willing to volunteer in the face of danger—thank goodness. And as a result, we are a nation in the lead in helping defend this world against extremists who murder the innocent to achieve an ideological objective.

And our military is compassionate as well. I'm looking forward to the stories from our commanders who will share with us the great compassion of our soldiers, whether it's to provide relief from a disaster or to help some child recognize the beauty of going to school.

And so I want to thank you for coming and thank you for serving, and I'm looking forward to hearing from you. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 5:11 p.m. in the Cabinet Room at the White House.

### **Statement on the Death of Margaret Truman Daniel**

*January 29, 2008*

Laura and I are saddened by the death of Margaret Truman Daniel. The only child of our 33d President, she supported her father as he confronted the difficult challenges of his Presidency, witnessing firsthand the leadership of Harry Truman in both war and peace. An accomplished author and singer, her life was one of tremendous personal achievement. Our thoughts and prayers are with Margaret Truman Daniel's sons and the rest of the Truman family.

**Memorandum on Unexpected  
Urgent Refugee and Migration  
Needs Related to Africa and the  
Middle East**

*January 29, 2008*

Presidential Determination No. 2008-10

*Memorandum for the Secretary of State*

*Subject:* Unexpected Urgent Refugee and  
Migration Needs Related to Africa and the  
Middle East

By the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, including sections 2 and 4(a)(1) of the Migration and Refugee Assistance Act of 1962 (the “Act”), as amended (22 U.S.C. 2601 and 2603), and section 301 of title 3, United States Code:

(1) I hereby determine, pursuant to 2(c)(1) of the Act, that it is important to the national interest to furnish assistance under the Act in an amount not to exceed \$32 million from the United States Emergency Refugee and Migration Assistance Fund for the purpose of meeting unexpected and urgent refugee and migration needs, including by contributions to international, governmental, and nongovernmental organizations and payment of administrative expenses of the Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration of the Department of State, related to humanitarian needs in Africa and in the West Bank and Gaza; and

(2) the functions of the President in relation to this memorandum under 2(d) of the Act, and of establishing terms and conditions under section 2(c)(1) of the Act, are assigned to you.

You are authorized and directed to publish this memorandum in the *Federal Register*.

**George W. Bush**

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register,  
8:58 a.m., February 1, 2008]

NOTE: This memorandum was published in the *Federal Register* on February 4.

**Memorandum on Review of  
Recommendations From the Public  
Interest Declassification Board**

*January 29, 2008*

*Memorandum for the Secretary of State, the  
Secretary of the Treasury, the Secretary of  
Defense, the Secretary of Energy, the  
Secretary of Homeland Security, the  
Assistant to the President and Chief of Staff,  
the Director of the Office of Management and  
Budget, the Director of National Intelligence,  
the Assistant to the President for National  
Security Affairs, the Counsel to the President,  
and the Assistant to the President for  
Homeland Security and Counterterrorism*

*Subject:* Review of Recommendations From  
the Public Interest Declassification Board

The Public Interest Declassification Board, an advisory group established by the Public Interest Declassification Act of 2000, as amended (50 U.S.C. 435 note), has submitted a report entitled “Improving Declassification.” The report addresses 15 issues and makes 49 recommendations relating to declassification of classified national security information.

Please submit in writing no later than April 15, 2008, through the Assistants to the President for National Security Affairs and for Homeland Security and Counterterrorism, your views on each of the recommendations, including with respect to each recommendation your view of whether and to what extent it should be implemented. Your views with respect to the recommendations should take into account the public interest in declassification of national security information, effective records management, and the effective conduct of United States diplomatic, economic, military, energy, homeland security, and intelligence activities, as well as such other matters as you deem appropriate for consideration.

**George W. Bush**

NOTE: This memorandum was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on January 30.